

I claim:

- 1 1. A system for searching data in a distributed computing network of sellers'
2 commercial databases, the system comprising:
3 a distributed computing network comprising a plurality of sellers' commercial
4 databases, said seller's commercial databases commonly related to an industry,
5 at least one buyer's node for transmitting a buyer's first query,
6 a commercial search agent for receiving said buyer's first query regarding a
7 selected item, said item one of a product or service, said commercial search agent in
8 communication with said plurality of sellers' commercial databases, and said
9 commercial search agent further for searching said plurality of sellers' commercial
10 databases for information related to said selected item.
- 1 2. The system for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 1,
2 wherein:
3 said commercial search agent comprises an intelligent agent.
- 1 3. The system for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 1, further
2 comprising:
3 at least one of a plurality of analytical agents for mining data related to said
4 selected item from said plurality of sellers' databases, said analytical agent also for
5 generating a report on said data that most closely meets a goal,
6 said analytical agent in communication with said commercial search agent for

7 transmission thereto of said report.

1 4. The system for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 1, further
2 comprising:

3 at least one of said plurality of sellers' databases includes at least one promotion
4 module.

1 5. The system for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 1, further
2 comprising:

3 at least one of said plurality of sellers' databases includes at least one risk
4 management option module.

1 6. The system for searching data of claim 1, wherein:

2 said distributed computing network comprises a cooperative communications
3 network having a plurality of sellers' commercial databases, said cooperative
4 communications network related to said selected item.

1 7. The system for searching data of claim 1, further comprising:

2 at least one intelligent negotiation agent in communication with said commercial
3 agent, said intelligent negotiation agent for receiving said information related to said
4 selected item and for engaging in a negotiation for procurement of said selected item.

1 8. A method for searching data in a distributed computing network of sellers'
2 commercial databases, the method comprising:
3 receiving a buyer's first query regarding a selected item, said item one of a
4 product or service,
5 performing an automated search on a distributed computing network for
6 information related to said selected item, said distributed computing network
7 comprising a plurality of sellers' commercial databases, said plurality of sellers'
8 commercial databases commonly related to an industry.

1 9. The method for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 8,
2 wherein:
3 said performing an automated search is accomplished by invoking an intelligent
4 commercial search agent.

1 10. The method for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 8,
2 further comprising:
3 mining data from said plurality of sellers' commercial databases,
4 receiving a goal,
5 analyzing said data for generating a report thereon that most closely satisfies
6 said goal,
7 transmitting said report to said commercial search agent.

1 11. The method for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 8,
2 wherein:
3 said mining data is performed by an intelligent analytical agent.

1 12. The method for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 8,
2 further comprising:
3 receiving from at least one of said plurality of sellers' commercial databases a
4 promotion.

1 13. The method for searching data in a distributed computing network of claim 8,
2 further comprising:
3 receiving from at least one of said plurality of sellers' commercial databases a
4 risk management option comprising at least one contract contingency authorizing a
5 seller to pay a buyer a penalty if said seller elects to sell said selected item to another
6 buyer.

1 14. A system for procurement that communicates over a distributed network, the
2 system comprising:
3 one or more memories for storing a list of individual product items and individual
4 service items,
5 an intelligent commercial search agent in communication with said one or more
6 memories, and

7 one or more seller showcase databases in communication with said commercial
8 search agent,

9 wherein, when one or more of said seller showcase databases receives from
10 said commercial search agent a request to receive bids to sell a selected item specified
11 from said list, said one or more seller showcase databases submits that bid to said
12 commercial search agent.

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1 15. The system for procurement of claim 14, further comprising:
2 an intelligent analytical agent for mining data related to a selected item from said
3 list, said mining from at least one of a plurality of market databases, said analytical
4 agent for generating a subset of data that most closely conforms to a set of
5 preprogrammed item parameters, and said analytical agent in communication with said
6 commercial search agent for providing thereto said subset of data.

1 16. A method for procurement using computers that communicate over a distributed
2 network, the method comprising:
3 receiving from one of a plurality of buyer's intelligent agents registered with a
4 cooperative communications network a request to receive bids to sell a selected item
5 specified from a list of individual product items and individual service items, and
6 receiving from at least one of a plurality of seller's intelligent agents registered
7 with a cooperative communications network an automated bid to sell said selected item,
8 said bid responsive to said request.

1 17. The method for procurement of claim 16, further comprising:
2 said request for bids including a set of item parameters, said set including price.

1 18. The method for procurement of claim 16 further comprising:
2 said request for bids including a set of item parameters, said set including
3 quality.

1 19. The method for procurement of claim 16 further comprising:
2 said request for bids including a set of item parameters, said set including item
3 features.

1 20. The method for procurement of claim 16, wherein:
2 said buyer's intelligent agent comprises an intelligent commercial search agent
3 for searching said plurality of seller's intelligent agents for bids conforming to a set of
4 preprogrammed item parameters.

1 21. The method for procurement of claim 20, wherein:
2 said item parameters include transaction parameters.

1 22. The method for procurement of claim 16, further comprising:
2 a seller's analytical agent for receiving market data related to said selected item

3 from at least one of a plurality of seller databases, said seller's analytical agent
4 analyzing said market data for demand shaping opportunities based on a set of buyer
5 identifying data, and
6 sending said market data to said seller's intelligent agent.

1 23. The method for procurement of claim 22, further comprising:
2 using said market data to create a seller's showcase database related to said
3 selected item, said showcase database comprising at least one of a group of sets of
4 information comprising product items and service items.

1 24. The method for procurement of claim 23, wherein:
2 said sets of information are shaped according to said buyer identifying data to
3 maximize interest of said buyer.

1 25. The method for procurement of claim 23, wherein:
2 said at least one of a group of sets of information comprises promotions.

1 26. The method for procurement of claim 23, wherein:
2 said at least one at least one of a group of sets of information includes a contract
3 contingency authorizing a seller to pay a buyer a penalty if said seller elects to sell said
4 selected item to another buyer.

1 27. The system for procurement of claim 14, wherein:

2 said buyer's intelligent agent comprises an intelligent commercial search agent

3 for ranking said bids according to at least one filter factor.

1 28. The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

2 said at least one filter factor comprises item price.

1 29. The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

2 said at least one filter factor comprises item location.

1 30. The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

2 said at least one filter factor comprises item niche.

1 31. The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

2 said at least one filter factor comprises item availability.

1 32. The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

2 said at least one filter factor comprises includability in bundle purchase.

1 33. The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

2 said at least one filter factor comprises accountability of seller.

1 34. The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

2 said at least one filter factor comprises past experience with seller.

1 35. The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

2 said at least one filter factor comprises at least one promotion.

1 36. The system for procurement of claim 27, wherein:

2 said at least one filter factor comprises at least one contract contingency
3 authorizing a seller to pay a buyer a penalty if said seller elects to sell said selected
4 item to another buyer.

1 37. The system for procurement of claim 14, wherein:

2 said bids submitted by at least one of said seller showcase databases includes a
3 contract contingency authorizing a seller to pay a buyer a penalty if said seller elects to
4 sell said selected item to another buyer.

5 38. The system for procurement of claim 37, wherein:

6 said penalty diminishes over time.

1 39. A method for searching data in a distributed computing network, comprising:

2 receiving a request to search for information related to a selected item, said
3 selected item one of a group of individual product items and individual service items,

4 sorting a list of preferred attributes for filtering said information,
5 searching at least one of a plurality of seller commercial data bases for said
6 information, each of said plurality of sellers' commercial data bases commonly
7 registered with a cooperative communications network related to said selected item,
8 receiving from at least one of said sellers' commercial data bases data
9 conforming to said list of attributes, and
10 sorting said information received from said sellers' commercial data bases
11 according to said preferred attributes.

1 40. The method for searching data of claim 39, further comprising:
2 sending said information to a buyer's intelligent agent.

1 41. The method for searching data of claim 40, further comprising:
2 sending said information to a seller's intelligent agent.

1 42. A computer program product comprising a machine readable medium on which
2 is provided program instructions for performing a method for procurement of an
3 item using computers that communicate over a network, the program instructions
4 comprising:
5 program code for receiving from one of a plurality of buyer's intelligent agents
6 registered with a cooperative communications network a request to receive bids to sell
7 a selected item specified from a list of individual product items and individual service

- 8 items, and
- 9 program code for receiving from at least one of a plurality of seller's intelligent
- 10 agents registered with a cooperative communications network an automated bid to sell
- 11 said selected item, said bid responsive to said request.

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